

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 1, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll-call vote No. 97.

Rollcall vote 97 was on passage of H. Con. Res. 109, legislation calling on all Americans to honor the men and women of the U.S. armed forces and their families, and encouraging them to display the Blue Star Banner or the Gold Star. It also called on the media to recognize the importance and symbolism of the Blue Star Banner.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

I ask that my statement appear at the appropriate section in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER E. ALVERSON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Christopher E. Alverson has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Christopher E. Alverson has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Christopher E. Alverson has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Christopher E. Alverson must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 342, the residents of Fredericktown, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Christopher E. Alverson as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE AIR LAND EMERGENCY RESCUE TEAM "COLUMBIA" SHUTTLE DISASTER CREW

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend 158 men of the International ALERT Academy who selflessly spent 11 days in San Augustine County, Texas, helping with recovery efforts following the disastrous crash of the space shuttle *Columbia*.

From February 2–12, 2003, these men served our country and the families of the crew at their own expense, searching through the dense forests and briars of that region. Through their thoroughness, hard work, and willing attitudes these men brought encouragement to the leadership of the incident command structure, and every fellow worker involved.

Andrew Allison, Adam Anders, Ryan Anders, Donald Anderson, Oliver Araiza, Scott Avedisian, Jeremiah Baarbe, Michael Baird, Timothy Baldridge, Marv Behr, Matthew Berryman, Christopher Bourne, Jesse Brumbaugh, Tom Burch, Daniel Caciola, Kevin Cahill, Brian Cahil, Cody Carnett, Jonathan Carstensen, Craig Cato, Jonathan Chiew, Jonathan Chu, Bryce Chun, Mel Cohen, Marc Cohen, Jesse Conklin.

Andrew Conway, Shaun Cowhard, Timothy Crist, Steven Curry, Steve Dankers, Daniel Davies, Kurt Dean, Jonathan DeHaan, Michael DeMaio, John Davolt, Paul Ellis, Jeremy Enquist, Stephen Falkenstine, Brandon Fitch, Gabriel Garriga, Richard Geiger, Andrew George, Joel George, Carter Gibson III, Joshua Grimes, Jonathan Gunter, Nicholas Harris, Nathan Hasme, Jonathan Hasty, Mark Hasty, Terrel Hendrich.

Robert Heren, David Herring, William Hicks, Charles Hitchcock, Justin Horsman, Logan Howell, Jeff Huggins, John Hurst, Earl Jantz, Dick Jarrell, David Jodrey, Jeremy Johnson, Connor Jones, Kevin Jones, Lorin Kaney, Stephen Keating, Matthew Kinkade, Carl Kinz, Seth Kiser, Jonathan Knight, David Kress, Stephen Lacy, Jim Lampman, Kuan-Hui Lee, Emmanuel Lenau, Benjamin Longwell.

Jason Luksa, Mark MacLurg, Jonathan Mahoney, Greg Mandreger, Timothy Martin-Vegue, James Mayers, Stephen McKerracher, James Meek, Peter Melton, Steven Menzel, Jay Miller, Jeremy Minter, Merritt Mitchell, Russell Moulton, Zachariah Munger, Michael Muscanero, Adam Nunez, Joshua Oathout, Kyle O'Donnell, John O'Donnell, William Orr, Samuel Ortiz, Christopher Overby, John Owen, Micah Parrish, Stephen Parrish, Marc Payant.

David Pennywell, Jonathan Popowich, Michael Potter, Stephen Powers, Aaron Prentice, Jonathan Radford, Simon Rawson, Justin Reyes, Vladimir Robles, Josiah Savage, Clifford Scott, Scott Shetler, Doug Simmons, David Sisson, Phillip Smith, Benjamin Snyder, Tryg Solberg, Samuel Spear, Michael Spillman, James Spriggs, Stephen Stiller, Andrew Strain, John-David Sullivan.

Nathanael Swanson, Adam Switzer, Randy Switzer, Joel Talley, Shawn Tallman, John Tanner, Joshua Tanner, Justin Tanner, Andrew Thompson, Brett Thompson, Daryn Thompson, David Thornton, Robert Thurston, Abraham Timler, Roy Turner, Joshua Uecker, Nathan Walker,

Samuel Walker, Patrick Walsh, Joshua Watkins, Bruce West, Joseph West, Robert Wheeler, III, Mark Whitehead, Amadi Williams, Spencer Wolf, Jay Wright, Brian Yoder, Philip Yoder, and Mark Zeller.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW J. RYAN, A LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, COMPASSION, AND STATESMANSHIP

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Speaker Matthew J. Ryan, a 21-term member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and second longest-serving Speaker in state history. Few Commonwealth leaders have matched the record of public service attained by Speaker Matthew J. Ryan. As one of Pennsylvania's finest public servants, he truly left this world a better place.

Speaker Ryan, a former First Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps, was an attorney by profession. He was elected Speaker for the first time in 1981. Throughout his distinguished tenure, Speaker Ryan was known and lauded by his colleagues from both sides of the aisle for the nonpartisan, fair manner in which he presided. Those of us who had the privilege to work with him on behalf of our mutual constituency knew him to be a man of great passion, compassion, and principle who worked with skill and determination for the best interests of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Nation. I looked to him for guidance on many occasions and could always rely on him for good solid advice on issues affecting our mutual constituencies.

Speaker Ryan would readily tell the House freshmen that the qualities of an outstanding legislator are "skill at listening and understanding, respecting others" strengths and accepting their limitations, commitment and courage, and learning the art of compromise."

He did not seek public service for fame or glory, he sought simply to help people. In an era of cynicism towards those in public life, Speaker Ryan reminded us of why we serve. His legacy will endure not only in the principles he stood for and the improvements he brought to his beloved Pennsylvania, but also his wonderful family, his wife, Judge Patricia Jenkins and children. They, too, carry Matt Ryan's commitment to public service and community.

Speaker Ryan will long be remembered in the halls of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. It is a better institution because of his service and leadership. More importantly, he was an effective public servant and improved the lives of thousands of families in his state and beloved Delaware County.

Mr. Speaker, our region has lost a great leader, and I have lost a good friend. Matt Ryan exemplified the spirit of service that has made this country great. It is proper to remember and honor a man of such worth and character with great respect for what he stood for.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.